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Helicia mahmudii (*Proteaceae*), a new species of tree from Sarawak

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Summary. *Helicia mahmudii* (Proteaceae), from Sarawak's Lanjak-Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary, is described as a new species of tree.

In the course of botanical surveys conducted in the Lanjak-Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary of Sarawak, a species of *Helicia* (Proteaceae) new to science has been discovered. This is described below and is named in honour of Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, the Honourable Chief Minister of Sarawak, Malaysia.

The new species is apparently very rare and is so far known only from the type collection.

Helicia mahmudii *P. Chai* **sp. nov.** *H. microcarpa Sleum. affinis sed nervis folii multo pluribus (26–30 paribus), infra glabris, perianthio breviore (7–8 mm longo) recedit. Typus: P. Chai S. 33791, Sarawak, Lanjak-Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary, March 1974 (holotypus SAR; isotypi K, KEP, L, MO, SAN).* (Fig. 1)

Small tree about 4 m tall, 2 cm girth. Bark surface dark brown, thin, finely vertically cracked. Young twigs rufous-tomentose, later glabrescent. Leaves entire, spiral; petiole 4.5–6 cm long, swollen at base. Leaves oblong-lanceolate, subcoriaceous, glabrous, 29–42 cm × 9–11.5 cm; drying light creamy brown below, dull olive green above; base cuneate, apex obtuse and shortly pointed; lateral veins ascending, 26–30 pairs, reticulations fine, raised on both surfaces. Racemes borne on the trunk (cauliflorous habit), about 30 cm above ground, pedicels not winged, single or in pairs; perianth rufous-tomentose, 7–8 mm long, attached to 4–6-mm-long pedicels, light greenish-cream; anthers whitish, attached to base of perianth lobes; ovary glabrous, green with whitish style and stigma, ovules two, close

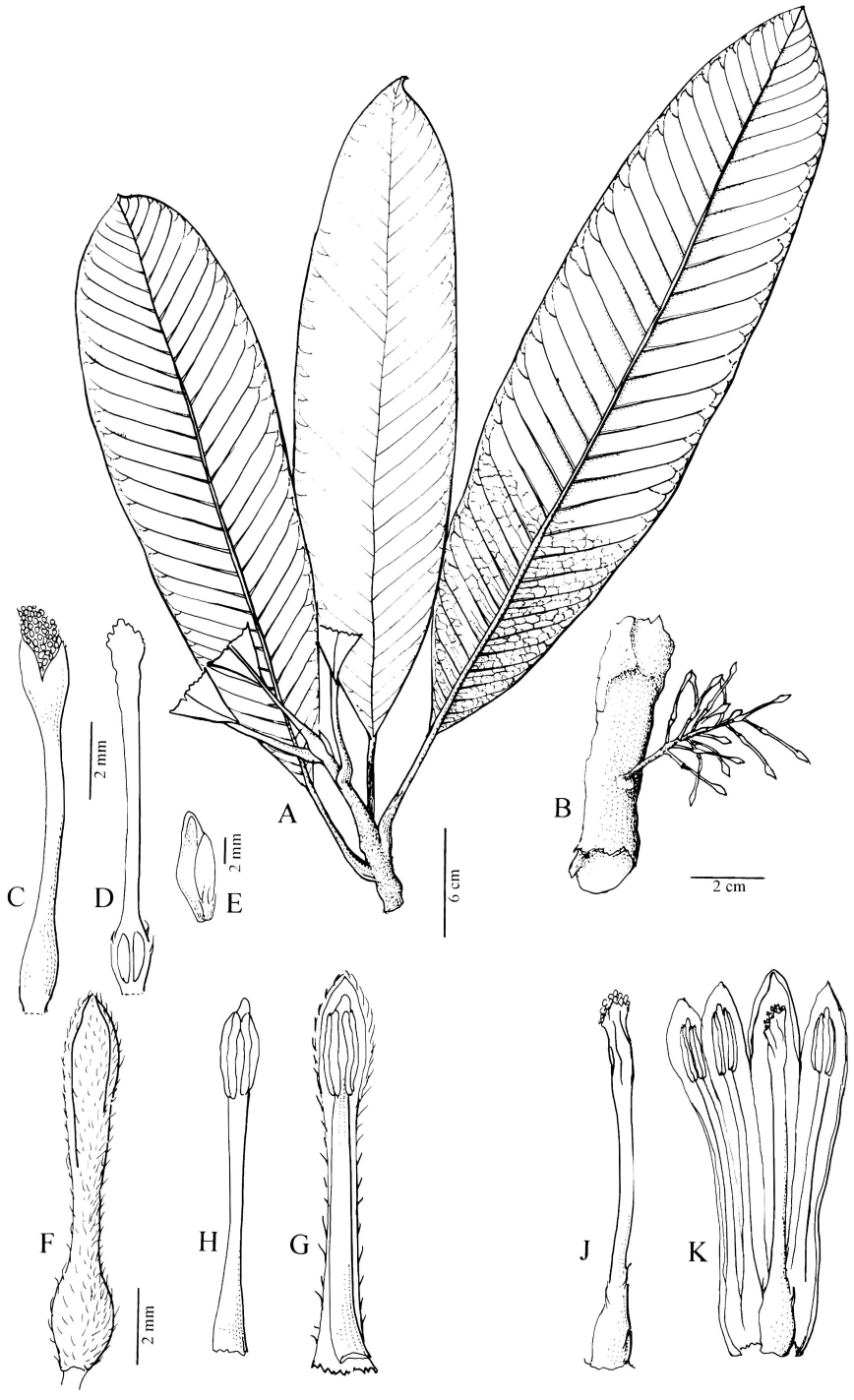

Fig. 1. *Helicia mahmudii.* **A.** Leafy twig. **B.** Young inflorescence. **C.** Partially open flower. **D.** Longitudinal section of gynoecium. **E.** Young flower bud. **F.** Flower just before opening. **G.** Stamen attached to perianth segment. **H.** Stamen torn away from the perianth but still attached to a basal portion of the perianth tube. **J.** Gynoecium. **K.** View of flower with perianth slit longitudinally.

together, ovule or seed anatropous and ascending, attached to the base of the ovary or fruit chamber, disk consisting of 4 thick glands.

Only very few species may be compared to the one here described and mostly have less than 18 pairs of leaf nerves (Sleumer 1955). *H. microcarpa* Sleum. also has densely rufous-tomentose perianths, but differs in having longer perianths (up to 18 mm) and fewer leaf nerves (about 6 pairs), and is an eastern New Guinea species. *H. hypoglauca* Diels and *H. albiflora* Sleum. have slightly less densely hairy perianths, but the hairs are appressed, not stiff and erect, and the perianths are longer than 10 mm. *H. commutata* Sleum. and *H. saurauioides* Sleum. have up to 16–20 pairs of leaf nerves, but *H. commutata* differs in its gradually attenuate leaf apex, shorter petioles (only about 1 cm long), axillary racemes, and glabrous perianths; *H. saurauioides* differs in having pubescent petioles and axillary racemes densely covered in short appressed hairs. Both are also New Guinea species.

ECOLOGY. In open places colonised by secondary pioneer vegetation following landslips at 610 m (2,000 feet) above sea level.

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